

*not use*

Def Doc 427

## "Tragedy of NICOLAEVSK"

May 15 (Sat) 1920

## Translation

Some of the Japanese residents of VLADIVOSTOK who once lived at NICOLAEVSK have recently organized an association called NICOLAEVSK-KAI for the purpose of collecting donations. Mr. OKAWA, Hirozaburo, an employee of the VLADIVOSTOK Branch of SHIMADA and Company, who reached TSURUGA from VLADIVOSTOK on 14th inst. in order to leave OTARU on 17th this month for NICOLAEVSK to console the survivors, related as follows <sup>int</sup> the circumstances of the Slaughter of Japanese at NICOLAEVSK. This story was originally brought by three members of the NICOLAEVSK Cooperative Society by the names of GONCHAROV, EFIMOV and GAULINKO, who came from NICOLAEVSK to VLADIVOSTOK on April 2.

"It was early in February that a clash between the Bolsheviks and the Japanese forces broke out at NICOLAEVSK. At first, the enemy attacked and destroyed our wireless station which was situated on the outskirts of the city and the Japanese forces then retreated into the city, where they remained until about the middle of February. During that period, the Red Army sent a mission on two occasions to invite our army to surrender, but the Japanese refused it by executing the messengers. Therefore, on February 25th the enemy started negotiations for a truce through the consulate and mutual understanding was reached on February 28th between the leaders of both armies who assembled in a hall and shook hands, whereupon the Japanese Army pledged to observe strict neutrality. Due to this arrangement, the White Army which had heretofore been supported by the

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Japanese forces came gradually to be subjected to pressure by the Red Army and the Bolsheviks, which resulted in the suicide of MEDENEIDIEV, White Army Fortress Commander, TOYULIEV, Commandant of the Garrison, and GARS, Battalion Commander. The Bolsheviks became more arbitrary every day, and altogether 605 Russians, including fishery industrialists, customs officials and members of the Autonomous Association, who had anything to do with the Japanese Army and the White Army were apprehended one after another and were imprisoned by March 11.

On March 12, the anniversary of the revolution, they worked out a plan to stage a great demonstration and to hold simultaneously a grand official burial service in honor of the two members of the mission that went to urge surrender but were put to death some time before by the Japanese. Furthermore, they went so far as to demand disarmament of the Japanese forces by noon of the same day. Thereupon, the Japanese Army, in order to forestall this intolerable tyranny on the part of the Bolsheviks, resolutely started action at dawn on March 12, attacked and burned down the MEBELLI & Company Building, the Red Army Headquarters and killed the commander and Bolshevik leaders, totaling 17. The Japanese Army advanced further and occupied the Telegraph Office, the Headquarters of the Fortress of the General Staff and an Officers' Mess Room, etc. The enemy however held the fortress, fired guns and occupied a half of the city, and thus they stood face to face with the Japanese forces.

Meanwhile, the enemy gradually regained their power and taking the offensive, and with guns and machine guns, launched fierce street fighting

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against our forces. The Officers' Mess Room and the Fortress Staff Headquarters changed hands several times between the two opposing armies until they, by the gun fire in this fighting, were burned down. Therefore, our army, abandoning the Telegraph Office, took position in the SHIMADA & Co Building and fought to the best of their power. However, as it was a wooden house, it fell an easy victim to the firing. This took place at 1 p.m. on March 12. The house, having been burned down in a twinkling, our army decided to defend in two separate groups, one in the Battalion Headquarters and the other in the Consulate Building, in which Consul ISHIDA and Japanese residents had taken refuge. The enemy then encircled these two buildings and first attacked the Consulate which held in it a large number of non-combatants. All the Japanese who took shelter in the Consulate armed themselves and determined to defend to the death with the small number of Japanese soldiers who were there. The said Consulate Building was also wooden, so that it could not withstand long fierce attack of the enemy, which caused many casualties in no time among the Japanese. This building also started fire on the afternoon of March 13, the majority of the refugees fell in the battle and only 27 or 28 were finally left alive. Everyone of the survivors was more or less wounded and exhausted. They had spent all their ammunition and were unable to continue further resistance. Yet, unwilling to be taken prisoners, so shouting "BANZAI" they all threw themselves into the fire to be burned to death.

Having executed this wholesale massacre of the Japanese in the Consulate Building, which presented a scene of an extreme ghastliness, the

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Bolsheviks turned their main force to bear upon the Japanese Battalion Headquarters, our only remaining position. While our army kept on fighting with considerable casualties, an order for a truce reached, on the afternoon of March 14, from the Japanese and the Russian armies at NIKITAROVSK, which at last brought the Bolshevik troops to cease attacking. They delivered the Japanese Army a Japanese interpreter whom they had taken prisoner and thus suspended hostilities. The Japanese who survived this disaster were 120 soldiers and 10 civilian refugees, totaling 130, 40 of whom were wounded and sick. After the armistice the Battalion Headquarters was moved to a Russian barrack, where those survivors are being subjected to the same treatment as prisoners of war. I may add in this connection that Mrs. SHIMADA, Tama, wife of the proprietor of SHIMADA & Co was reported to have remained at NICOLAEVSK and killed herself by plunging into the fire together with her children. This, however, proved a false report because she has been recuperating under Mr. SHIMADA's parental roof at FUKUROCHO, NAGASAKI City."

A special dispatch from TSURUGA

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Translation

Certificate of Source of Document (No. 7 A)

I, a member of the Investigation Department of the ASAHI  
Newspaper Company, hereby certify that the document attached hereto in  
Japanese consisting of 3 pages, entitled "The Tragedy of NICOLAUSKI" is  
an exact copy of the article originally carried in the May 5, 1920 issue  
of the TOKYO ASAHI Newspaper.

At Tokyo  
On this 25th day of February 1947

WATANABE, Tatsunosuke (Seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto  
in my presence.

At the same place

At the same date

Witness: INOUE, Minoru (Seal)

Translation Certificate

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大正九年五月十五日(土)

悲鳴ナリシ尼洋

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在瀬浦邦人ニシテ管テニコライフスクニ在留セル者ニシテ今回ニコライフスク會ナルモノヲ詮議シ議得  
金ヲ蒙ヘシ、本月十七日小傳出處ニコライフスクニ至リ生在者ヲ賄賂スベク十四日沖浦ヨリ敵賊ニ來レル島田商會瀬浦支店員安川兵三郎氏ハ四月二日ニコライフスクヨリ瀬浦ニ來レルニコライフスク販賣組合員ゴンチャロク、エヒーモク、ガウリンコ三名ノ賊セルニコライフスク邦人虐殺事件ノ情況ヲ語レルガ左ノ如シ

ニコライフスクニ於テ過激派ト日本軍ト衝突ヲ始メタルハ二月初旬ニテ長初敵軍ハ市外ニ在ル我無線電信局ヲ攻撃破壊シ我軍ハ市内ニ退却シテ二月中旬頃迄ニコライフスクニ居レリ其間亦衛軍ハ降伏勸告使ヲ我軍ニ二回送り來レルモ我軍ハ之ヲ死刑ニ處シテ拒否セハ爲彼ハ更ニ二月廿五日ヨリ領事館ヲ經由シテ以口中止ノ交渉ヲ開始シ二十八日ニ至リ相互ノ諒解ヲ得爾軍幹部ハ一堂ニ集マリ握手シ日本軍ハ嚴正中立ヲ守ルコト、ナリタリ。是ガ爲從來日本軍ノ撃殺ノ下士立チ居タル白衛軍ハ赤帝軍及過激派ノ屬ニ極度過激シ加ヘテレ白衛軍要塞司令官メドエネテフ従成司令官トウヨリヨフ

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ガルス大隊長ノ三名ハ遂ニ自殺スルニ至リ過激派ノ  
 暴日ニ直ダシク日本軍及自衛軍ニ關係アル傷西亞人  
 フ片端ヨリ捕ヘ始メ農業家及農村自治會員等ニシテ三  
 月十一日迄ニ拘禁サレタル者六百五名ニ達シ十二日ノ  
 革命紀念日ニ一大示威運動ノ計画ヲ立テ同時ニ暴ニ日  
 本軍ニ被サレタル傷兵二名ノ公式追葬ヲ盛大ニ行ム  
 同日正午ヲ期シテ日本軍ノ武裝解除ヲ要求スルニ至レ  
 リ茲ニ於テ日本軍ハ此度シテ過激派ノ暴ニ對シ機  
 先ヲ備スペク十二日未明暴起シテ赤衛軍司令部タル、  
 メリハベリ商會ヲ攻撃シ燒拂ノ司令官過激派首領達十  
 七名ヲ殺シ尙ほテ電信局要塞志願本部將校集會所等  
 フ占領セリ 敵ハ要塞ニ立籠リ大砲ヲ放テ市中ノ半  
 面ヲ占領シ我軍ニ對時セリ而シテ敵ハ漸次勢力ヲ得來  
 リ機籠大砲ヲ以テ攻勢ニ出テ我軍トノ間ニ猛烈ナル  
 市街戦ヲ行ヒ將校集會所要塞志願本部ヲ攻撃回環  
 遊シ相撲ヒタルガ此戰國ニ依ル砲火ノ爲メ居者共焼失  
 スルニ至リタル爲メ我軍ハ電信局ヲモ放棄シテ島田商  
 會ニ依リニ力闘ヘルモ木造ナリシカバ砲火ノ爲メ一堵  
 リモナク火ヲ立シタリ時ニ三月十二日午後一時見ル々  
 ベニ同商會ハ燒落チタレバ我軍ハ大陸本部ト石田領  
 事及ビ在留邦人ノ避難セル領事館トニ分レテ守備ス  
 ルコト、ナリタルガ敵ハ之ヲ包囲シテ先づ此ノ非戰國

710.427

DDP 100 # 427

員多キ領事館ノ攻撃ヲ開始シ領事館ニ避難セル邦人ハ  
全部武装シテ若干ノ日本兵ト共ニ死守スルニ決シタル  
モ同館モ木造ナル爲メ支フル力ナク猛烈ナル敵ノ攻撃  
ニヨリ戦死負傷者續々相次ギ是モ火災ヲ起スニ至リ  
十三日午後ニハ大部分壊レテ最後ニハ在存者僅ニ廿七  
八名トナリ而モ多少ノ傷ヲ被ラザルハナク勢力盡キ彈  
丸モ盡キテ抵抗全ク不可能トナリシモ俘虜トナルノ肩  
シトセズ萬歳ヲ高唱シ全部火中ニ飛込ミテ焼死セリ  
此裝修壯壯ノ限リワ盡シタル領事館ノ邦人壁壘ヲ行ヒ  
タル後過激派ハ獨リ一箇所ナル日本軍大陸本部ニ主力  
ヲ向ケ我軍亦之ト應接シテ戦死負傷者ヲ出シ戰闘ヲ繼  
續中十四日午後ハパロフスクヨリ日露兩軍ノ休戦命令  
達シタル爲メ過激派軍ハ漸ク攻撃ヲ止メ俘虜トシタル  
日本通譯ヲ我軍ニ引渡シ休戦セリ生存セルモノハ軍人  
百二十名過難民十名全部デ百三十名ニテ傷病者ハ四十  
名ニ達シ居リテ休戦後ハ大陸本部モ露西亞兵營ニ移リ  
俘虜同様ノ待遇ヲ受ケツヽアリ 因ニ島田商會主夫人  
タマ子ハ當時ニコライフスクニ居リ子供等ト共ニ火中  
ニ投ジテ死シタルガ如ク傳ヘラレタルモ夫人ハ病氣ニ  
テ保養ノ爲メ島田氏ノ實家ナル長崎市袋町ニ療養シ居  
レバ右ハ訛傳ナリト（敬賀皆電）

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文書成立ニ關スル證明書

(七四四)

私ハ朝日新聞社ノ鶴立部員ノ職ニ在ルモノナル處迄ニ  
 添附セル日本語ニテ書カレ三頁ヨリ成ル「懇意ナリシ  
 尼巖」ト關スル文書ハ大正九年五月十五日發行ノ東京  
 朝日新聞紙場記事ノ寫ナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年二月二十三日

於 朝日新聞社

渡邊辰之助印

右署名捺印ハ私ノ面前ニ於テナサレタルモノナルコト  
 ヲ證明ス

同 日 於 同 所

立會人 井 上

實印